

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Withdrawn) A wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric produced by using splittable conjugate fibers each of which is formed by sticking a polyester polymer component A containing polyoxyalkyleneglycol of 2000 to 20000 in mass average molecular weight and a polyolefin polymer component B which is insoluble in said polymer component A, and on each surface of which at least a part of said polymer component B is exposed, comprising heat-bonded areas and areas not heat bonded, wherein in said heat-bonded areas, said splittable conjugate fibers are accumulated and combined with each other by heat bonding of said polymer component B, and in said areas not heat bonded, fibers A composed of said polymer component A and fibers B composed of said polymer component B formed by exfoliating the sticking of the splittable conjugate fibers are accumulated, and exfoliated faces of said fibers A and said fibers B are modified by plasma treatment.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric according to claim 14, wherein:

a component containing 1.5 to 15 mass percent polyoxyalkyleneglycol of 2000 to 20000 in mass average molecular weight is used as the polyester polymer component A.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn) The wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric according to claim 2, wherein the fibers A and the fibers B are not substantially entangled three-dimensionally with each other.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) The wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric according to claim 14, wherein:

The fibers A and the fibers B are substantially entangled three-dimensionally with

each other.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric according to claim 14, wherein:

The fibers A and the fibers B are continuous fibers.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric comprising the steps of: applying splitting to a nonwoven web produced by accumulating splittable conjugate fibers each of which is formed by sticking a polyester polymer component A containing polyoxyalkyleneglycol of 2000 to 20000 in mass average molecular weight and a polyolefin polymer component B which is insoluble in said polymer component A, thereby forming fibers A composed of said polymer component A and fibers B composed of said polymer component B; and modifying exfoliated faces of the fibers A and the fibers B by applying plasma treatment using an inert gas.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric comprising the steps of: forming a nonwoven web by accumulating splittable conjugate fibers each of which is formed by sticking a polyester polymer component A containing polyoxyalkyleneglycol of 2000 to 20000 in mass average molecular weight and a polyolefin polymer component B which is insoluble in said polymer component A and exposing at least a part of the polymer component B on the surface thereof; forming a nonwoven fleece by partly heating said nonwoven web to soften or melt said polymer component B thereby forming heat-bonded areas where said splittable conjugate fibers are heat bonded with each other and areas not heat bonded where said splittable conjugate fibers are not heat bonded with each other; applying splitting to said nonwoven fleece to exfoliate the sticking of said splittable conjugate fibers thereby forming fibers A composed of said polymer component A and fibers B composed of said polymer component B in said areas not heat bonded; and applying plasma treatment using an inert gas to modify exfoliated faces of the fibers A

and the fibers B.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing a wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric according to claim 7 or 8, wherein a component containing 1.5 to 15 mass percent polyoxyalkyleneglycol of 2000 to 20000 in mass average molecular weight is used as the polyester polymer component A.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing a wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the splitting is carried out by buckling treatment.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing a wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric according to any of claims 7 to 9, wherein water needling or needle punching carries out the splitting.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing a wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric according to any of claims 7 to 11, wherein the splittable conjugate fibers are splittable conjugate continuous fibers.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing a wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric according to any of claims 7 to 12, wherein low-temperature plasma treatment is applied using argon as the inert gas.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A Wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric comprising: a polyester polymer component A containing polyoxyalkyleneglycol of 2000 to 20000 in mass average molecular weight; and a polyolefin polymer component B which is insoluble in said polymer component A, wherein:

The nonwoven fabric is ~~produces~~ produced by using splittable conjugate fibers, each of which splittable conjugate fibers is formed by sticking said polyester polymer component A and said polyolefin polymer component B;

accumulating said polyester polymer component A and said polyolefin polymer component B formed by ~~splittable~~ splitting the sticking of said ~~splittable~~ conjugate fibers; and

modifying the split faces of said polyester polymer component A and said polyolefin polymer component B by plasma treatment.